

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

JOB VACANCY STUDY

A Profile of
Job Openings
in Utah

See the entire report at:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/jvs2008>



S O U T H W E S T E R N

4th quarter 2007
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The Job Vacancy Study (JVS) is designed to gauge the characteristics of the current demand for labor in Utah. JVS can help job seekers identify occupations in demand and can assist employers in recognizing the existence of skill shortages and labor gaps. Nearly 3,500 employers were surveyed during the fourth quarter of 2007. For JVS the Southwest region is comprised of Iron and Washington counties, which includes Utah's southernmost metropolitan statistical area.

Region Summary

- The job vacancy rate for the Southwest region was 4.1 percent, meaning that for every 100 jobs there are 4.1 job openings, down from the 2005 job vacancy rate of 5.0 percent. The current vacancy rate translates into approximately 2,850 jobs open at anytime during the fourth quarter of 2007.
- The average offered wage for job openings surveyed was \$12.70/hr, up from \$11.20 measured in 2005, which, when adjusted for inflation, is up 80 cents.
- Ninety percent of job openings are for permanent jobs, indicating a sustained need to fill jobs, not simply seasonal demand.
- Sixty percent of job openings were for full-time positions, 40 percent for part-time.
- The Southwestern region was the only region in Utah that saw a drop in both the vacancy rate and number of job openings. This could be due to the slowing down of some previously strong industries such as construction.

Key Industries

- The industry with the most job openings and highest vacancy rate is healthcare
- The construction industry's estimated openings, vacancy rate and advertised wage declined. In 2005 there were 506 openings compared to 304 in 2007, the industrial vacancy rate was 6.4 percent compared to 3 percent in 2007, the average advertised wage for job openings was \$13.31 in 2005 compared to \$10.25 in 2007.
- Over 20 percent of all job openings in the Southwest were in the retail industry, of those openings about 40 percent were seasonal.

Key Occupations

- Retail salespersons accounted for the highest occupational job vacancy rate at 13.6 percent as well as the highest total of estimated openings at 330.
- Occupations offering the highest advertised wage include administrative assistants (\$17.77), and truck drivers (\$15.07).

Education and Experience

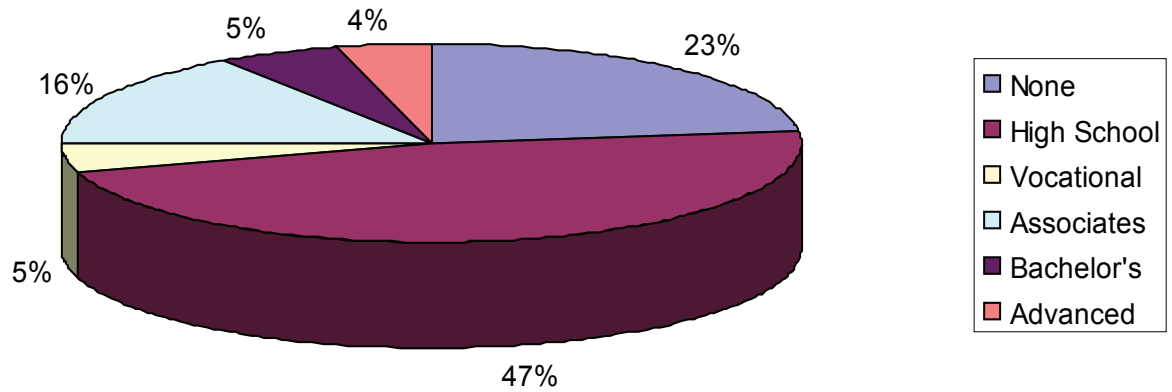
- Seventy one percent of all job vacancies surveyed required a high school education or less, with an average advertised wage of \$9.64 for jobs with no postsecondary education requirements. Compared to jobs requiring postsecondary education, which had an average advertised wage of \$19.88.
- Jobs with the most openings requiring no education or high school education included retail salespersons, cashiers and food preparation workers.
- The most openings requiring an associate degree or higher included teacher's assistants and executive assistants. This is not to be confused with the prevalent education and training requirements as defined by Bureau of Labor Statistics for aggregate employment within these occupations.

Job with High Number of Openings

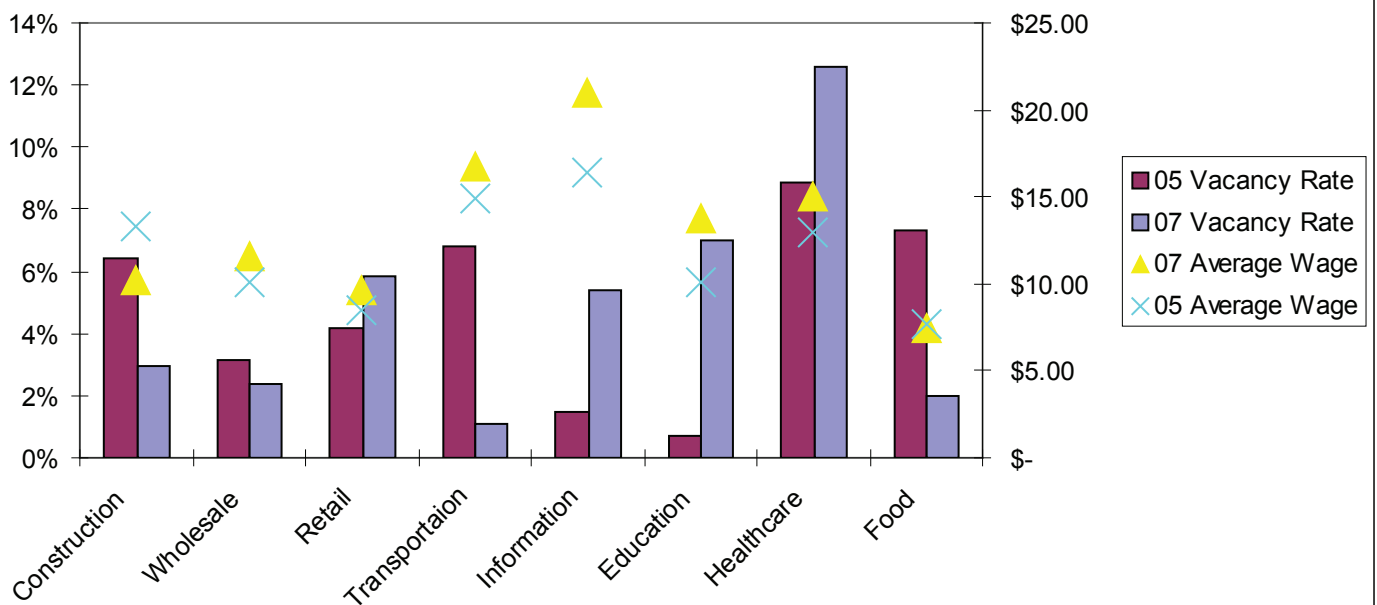
Occupation	Average Advertised Wage	Estimated Openings	Estimated Employment	Occupational Vacancy Rate
Retail Salespersons	\$ 11.10	333	2460	13.6%
Cashiers	\$ 8.30	262	2180	12.0%
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	\$ 7.40	78	1900	4.1%
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$ 9.40	71	1410	5.0%
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$ 10.70	68	700	9.7%
Teacher Assistants	\$ 9.50	52	1010	5.2%
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$ 15.10	49	980	5.0%
Food Preparation Workers	\$ 8.80	44	490	8.9%
Waiters and Waitresses	\$ 8.20	28	1180	2.4%
Medical Assistants	\$ 11.10	15	310	4.8%
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	\$ 17.80	13	390	3.3%
Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$ 10.90	12	1010	1.2%

Southwest	2007	2005
Vacancy Rate	4.10%	5.00%
Openings	2850	2970
Wage	\$12.70	\$11.20
Permanent Jobs	90%	89%
Full Time Jobs	60%	70%

Education Requirements as a Percent of Openings



2005 - 2007 Industrial Vacancy Rates and Average Advertised Wages



Experience Requirements as Percent of Openings

